

Hepatitis C Virus

ADULTS AGES 45+ WITH HCV

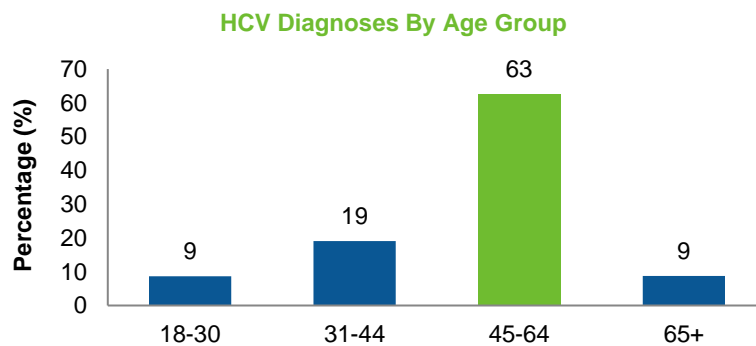


WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). HCV is the most common blood-borne illness in the United States, and new cases are on the rise. Hepatitis C can cause serious health problems including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death.¹

ADULTS AGED 45-64 WITH HCV

63% of hepatitis C cases reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health as of March 2016 were among people between 45 and 64 years of age.



WHY DO PEOPLE OVER 44 HAVE HIGH RATES OF HCV?

Nationally, baby boomers - those born between 1945 through 1965 - have high rates of hepatitis C, but the reasons are not completely understood. It is thought that many may have been infected from contaminated blood before widespread screening of blood products and universal precautions in 1992. **Most are believed to have become infected in the 1970s and 1980s when rates of hepatitis C were the highest.**²

For more information on hepatitis C virus and to view the recently released profile on Hepatitis C in Iowa, please visit:

<http://idph.iowa.gov/hivstdhep/hep/hep-c>

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WHY TEST BABY BOOMERS FOR HCV?

Liver-related complications, such as liver cancer, liver failure, and related deaths, are expected to peak in the next decade because many baby boomers have lived with hepatitis C for 20-40 years.²

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and CDC agree that all baby boomers should be tested once for HCV because:

- While anyone can get Hepatitis C, more than 75% of adults infected with HCV are baby boomers - people born from 1945 to 1965.
- Most infected baby boomers are unaware and undiagnosed.
- Hepatitis C kills more Americans, mostly baby boomers, each year than all other infectious diseases combined.
- Baby boomers are five times more likely to have hepatitis C.
- People with hepatitis C often have no symptoms, and can live with an infection for decades without feeling sick.
- Treatments are available that can cure hepatitis C and prevent liver damage, cirrhosis, and even liver cancer.

WHO SHOULD BE TESTED?

- **Those born between 1945 and 1965.**
- Those who currently or have ever injected drugs.
- Those who received blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1992.
- Those who are infected with HIV.²

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/cfaq.htm>
<https://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/media/pdfs/factsheet-boomers.pdf>